

REFNO; 0537-0-01 NAME; DYER IRBY III (NMN)

JCD DATE BLK COMMENTS

AD01 03 FEB 86 01 (U) AT 0100 HOURS 2 DECEMBER 1966 SFC WILLIE E. STARK, PATROL LEADER, 556 RUSSELL R. BOTT, ASSISTANT PATROL LEADER, BOTH FROM DETACHMENT B52, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE) (SF6A), ALONG WITH FOUR VIETNAMESE (ARVN) SOLDIERS WERE ATTACKED BY A SUPERIOR ENEMY FORCE IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE, LAOS, IN VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES XD 630 630. THEIR GROUP WAS CONDUCTING A LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL, DESIGNATED AS RECON TEAM 1, WHEN THEY WERE COMPROMISED. (REF 1)

AD01 03 FEB 86 02 (U) DURING THE RESULTING FIREFIGHT, SFC STARK WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED IN THE LEFT THIGH DURING THE INITIAL ENEMY ASSAULT. THE ENEMY REGROUPED AND ATTACKED AGAIN, MOVING CLOSE ENOUGH TO WHERE THE TEAM USED HAND GRENADES TO HOLD THEIR POSITION. ONE ARVN TEAM MEMBER WAS KILLED, AND SFC STARK WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT IN THE CHEST AND MAY HAVE DIED AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION SSG BOTT REQUESTED EXFILTRATION. (REF 1)

AD01 03 FEB 86 03 (U) AT 1000 HOURS 2 DECEMBER 1966 WO1 DANIEL A. SULANDER, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, WO1 DONALD D. HARRISON, PILOT, SP4 WILLIAM J. BODZIK, CREWCHIEF, SP4 LEE J. BOUDREAUX, GUNNER, AND SGT IRBY DYER III, A MEDIC FROM DETACHMENT B52, 5TH SF6A, (ALL REFNO 0537), BOARDED A UH-1D HELICOPTER, TAIL NUMBER 65-10088, AND DEPARTED FROM KHE SANH, SOUTH VIETNAM TO EXTRACT SFC STARK'S PATROL. WO1 SULANDER'S HELICOPTER WAS PART OF A FLIGHT OF SEVEN HELICOPTERS IN THE RECOVERY ATTEMPT. THE FLIGHT ORBITED IN THE VICINITY OF RECON TEAM 1 WHILE A FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER (FAC) LOCATED THE TEAM. WO1 SULANDER COMMENCED HIS APPROACH AND AS HE NEARED THE TEAM'S POSITION HIS HELICOPTER CAME UNDER INTENSE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. (REF 2)

AD01 03 FEB 86 04 (U) MEANWHILE, HEARING THAT HELICOPTERS HAD REACHED THE TEAM'S AREA, THE ARVN TEAM LEADER ORDERED THE PATROL TO MOVE OUT AND HE RAN AHEAD. THE TEAM'S POINT MAN SAID HE HEARD THE ENEMY OPEN FIRE ON THE ARVN TEAM LEADER AND THEN SAW HIM HIT THE GROUND, POSSIBLY WOUNDED. THE TWO REMAINING TEAM MEMBERS, THE POINT MAN AND THE TEAM SERGEANT, THEN STARTED TO LEAVE THEIR POSITIONS. AS THEY DEPARTED, THEY MOTIONED FOR SSG BOTT TO FOLLOW, SSG BOTT REPORTEDLY REFUSED, PULLED HIS PISTOL AND REMAINED WITH SFC STARK. (REF 1)

AD01 03 FEB 86 05 (U) AS WO1 SULANDER'S HELICOPTER WAS OBSERVED TO LAND AND THE CREW OF A UH-1C GUNSHIP FLYING PROTECTIVE COVER SAW A MAN (ASSESSED TO BE THE ARVN TEAM LEADER) RUNNING TOWARD WO1 SULANDER'S AIRCRAFT. DUE TO INTENSE GROUND FIRE, THE UH-1C WAS DRIVEN OFF AND THE CREW COULD NOT DETERMINE IF THE MAN EVER REACHED THE HELICOPTER. WO1 SULANDER'S AIRCRAFT WAS NEXT SEEN TO TAKE-OFF, OUT OF CONTROL, AND DESCEND IN A NOSE DOWN ATTITUDE. THE HELICOPTER CRASHED AND BURNED FOR ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES OF XD 633 631.

AD01 03 FEB 86 06 (U) THE FAC MAINTAINED RADIO CONTACT WITH SSG BOTT ON THE GROUND THROUGHOUT THE INCIDENT, WHO WAS LOCATED WITH SFC STARK (STATUS UNKNOWN) APPROXIMATELY 300 METERS NORTHEAST OF THE CRASH SITE IN VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES XD 634 633. SSG BOTT STATED "THEY" COULD SEE SMOKE FROM THE CRASH BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE SURVIVORS. THIS IS THE LAST RECORDED COMMUNICATION WITH RECON TEAM 1. (REF 2)

AD01 03 FEB 86 07 (U) BOTH OF THE ARVN TEAM MEMBERS WHO DEPARTED THEIR POSITIONS SUCCESSFULLY EVADED ENEMY FORCES AND MADE IT BACK TO FRIENDLY LINES. AN IMMEDIATE SEARCH OF THE CRASH SITE AND SFC STARK'S/SSG BOTT'S LAST KNOWN LOCATION WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF INTENSE ENEMY GROUND FIRE AND THE TACTICAL SITUATION. (REF 2)

JCRC BIOGRAPHIC REPORT AS OF 25 MAR 1986

REFNO; 0537-0-01 NAME; DYER IRBY III (NMN)

JCR DATE BLK COMMENTS

- A001 03 FEB 86 08 (U) ON 10 DECEMBER 1966 A RECOVERY TEAM REACHED THE CRASH SITE AND TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIVE SEPARATE BODIES. THE RECOVERY TEAM COULD NOT EXTRACT THE BODIES BECAUSE OF APPARENT BOOBY TRAPS ON THE BODIES AND THE PROXIMITY OF ENEMY TROOPS. DURING THIS GROUND INSPECTION NUMEROUS BOOT PRINTS WERE SEEN, AND THE BODIES APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MOVED. SMALL, BOX-LIKE GADGETS COULD BE SEEN UNDER SOME OF THE BODIES, AND THE GADGETS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PARTS OF THE HELICOPTER. ONLY THE HELICOPTER TAIL BOOM WAS RETRIEVED.
- A001 03 FEB 86 09 ON 11, 12, AND 13 DECEMBER 1966 THE CRASH SITE WAS SUBJECTED TO HEAVY AIR STRIKES. ON 15 DECEMBER 1966 ANOTHER RECOVERY TEAM REACHED THE CRASH SITE AND RETRIEVED THOSE PARTIAL REMAINS WHICH COULD BE FOUND. THE AIR STRIKES HAD DISTURBED THE SITE TO THE EXTENT THAT LESS THAN FIVE COMPLETE BODIES WERE RECOVERED. SUFFICIENT REMAINS WERE RECOVERED TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY WO1 HARRISON, SP4 BODZICK, AND SP4 BOUDREAUX. (REF 2)
- A001 03 FEB 86 10 (U) DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. SFC STARK, SSG BOTT, WO1 SULANDER, AND SGT DYER ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.
- A002 03 FEB 86 40 (U) REFERENCES USED; 1. MIA BOARD PROCEEDINGS (U), HQ, 5TH SF6A, 1ST SF, DTD 20 DEC 66. 2. RPT (U), HQ USARV W/WITNESS STATEMENTS, 26 DEC 66.
- Z499 03 FEB 86 50 (U) ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS; WILLIE E. STARK, 0536-0-01, RUSSELL P. BOTT, 0536-0-02, IRBY DYER III, 0537-0-01, AND DANIEL A. SULANDER, 0537-0-02.
- Z997 03 FEB 86 55 (U) LOSS LOCATION FOR REFNO 0536 XD 634 633 BASED ON ANALYSIS AND MAP TRACKING OF INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF 2.

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